

SULPHUR GAS AS CROP DESTROYER

Bag House Invention Does Not Remove It from Fumes of

...the ...

**It Is Being Heard Today By Judge
Marshall With Strong Array**

Arguments Hinge On the Trouble Invisible Gas Can Make With Ar-

From its humble beginning in the lucern fields of the lower valley, the local smelter smoke problem, which has passed on through mass meetings of farmers into the United States courts and back through the offices of leading

The United States Smelting, Refining and Mining company, and the farmers of the valley, met in the courtroom of United States Judge John Marshall this morning to again go over the situation, this time because the United States company alleges that it has caused, and is expected to cause, a materially adverse in the sum total of its knowledge, so that what was regarded as scientifically impossible before Judge Marshall wrote his decree in the case of Godfrey et al, is now now again a practical possibility and actually ready to put into operation.

A new gap pause at its plant is wha

The smelter urged as the cause for the reopening of the smelter smoke case, and this bag house, it was alleged, takes from the fumes all of their lead, copper, dust, arsenic and sulphuric acid, while it is admitted that it allows the escape of sulphur dioxide gas as at present.

The hearing this morning was in response to the smelter company's pe-

For the farmers there was not the least disposition to admit that science has advanced and it is claimed that the so-called advance is a trick by which the smeltermen hope to secure a continuance of their privilege to "do constant injury to crops and human health." Specifically, the trick was pointed out by Atty. Rawlins to consist of devices to prevent the escape

of sulphuric acid by converting it into sulphur dioxide, a colorless gas, which, once liberated, would continue to do its work, and would not, as the experts had been told, or much worse damage, account of the larger volume of this colorless gas thrown off under the proposed arrangement.

For the smelter, their experts attempted to show that this gas was harmless, that it either soaked in the pigments, which they now could not arrest, worse what did the damage. Previously experts for the same company had worked to show that it was this very gas which did so much damage when the plant in earlier hearings was shown to be on the arsenic or lead and, correct didn't.

The attorneys for the farmers set forth that the fact was notorious that this colorless gas is the big agent for damage, that in wet weather it absorbs water and becomes sulphurous acid, weaker than sulphuric acid, but plentifully harmful to health, to crops, and to animal life.

THOSE PRESENT.

When the hearing opened there were present in the court room, W. G. Sharp,

President of the United States Smelter Refining and Mining company, A. F. Holden, a managing director, W. F. Dickson and Andrew Howatt, attorneys for the company; George W. Helntz, its local smelter manager; H. D. Prosser, its metallurgical director, and F. W. Scofield, an engineer employed at the plant.

Representing the farmers were Attys. William W. King and Joseph L. Rawlins, while Atty. E. S. Ferry was present.

ent from the firm representing the American Smelting and Refining company, which is also operating under a slight modification of the decree, made for its case upon petition, but with the consent of the farmers' attorneys.

In the examination of witnesses Judge Howatt, who opened arguments in favor of the company's petition, represented the smelter, and Atty. Rawlins, who objected to the granting of the petition, represented the farmers, be-

being assisted in consultation by Atty. W. H. King and Prof. W. C. Ebaugh of the chemistry department, University of Utah.

OPENING ARGUMENTS.

In presenting arguments in favor of the petition, Judge Howatt declared that the handling of smoke had ad-

The bag house, he said, contained 2,000 bags that consumed material enough to cover seven acres, and had cost \$150,000. These bags, he said, would be destroyed by the use of sulphuric acid to remove them, and that the sulphuric acid would be recovered and reused.

from the chimney would proclaim for miles around that the smelter was violating the terms of the decrees. Therefore he urged that there would always be the possibility of any violation of the terms of the decision, for the very fact that the smelters were operating would show they had obeyed the law.

IS GAS HARMFUL?

Sulphur dioxide, he said, would be the only gas passing into the air and his he held to be harmless, while the copper dust, lead dust, and arsenic, would be precipitated in the bag house, to be sold as a by-product, or arsenic, a commercial product, and to save the lead, copper, and other valuable ingredients.

It was upon this point that the argument of the morning lingered, for a moment later he refused to admit that

and roasters, and their abandonment because they made too much sulphuric acid. Atty. Rawlins dwelt especially on this point, claiming that the new roasters had been installed because

(Continued on page two.)

100-443887-100